

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$3,959,000 TO CITY OF HIGHLANDVILLE

USDA Rural Development presented a mock check in the amount of \$3,959,000 to the City of Highlandville during a ceremony on August 31, 2006 at the city hall. The mock check represents Water and Waste funds totaling \$2,379,000 loan and a \$1,580,000 grant combination for the second phase of the central sewer collection and treatment system providing service to an additional 240 residents and businesses. A portion of the loan funds (\$550,000) will be used for the purchase of the existing water system allowing the city to have control of their utility operations which serves approximately 500 households in the community.

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "Partnerships between local government and federal agencies can bring great benefits to small communities. I applaud the efforts of Highlandville community leaders and the help they received from Rural Development. Developing reliable treatment systems and clean water are essential to the success of any economic development and often difficult for smaller communities to afford. This is a great example of making the federal government work for the citizens of Highlandville and investing in their future growth."

"I would like to commend the Highlandville community for their commitment to an environmentally safe waste disposal system," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. Rural Development is pleased to invest the federal funds as a partner in the future of your community."

Jim Wade, Mayor Pro Tem, expressed the community's appreciation, "The City would like to thank everyone for their continued hard work and support. The completed sewer system will enable the city to maintain clean water for our area lakes and streams which further benefits Christian county. The purchase of our own water system will give our residents assurance of quality water service. All of these benefits are truly an investment into the future viability of our community."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Roy Blunt for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the community." Branum added, "This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."



Left to Right: Front Row: Terry Campbell, District Director for Senator Talent; Stewart Baker, Alderman; Jim Wade, Mayor ProTem; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for Congressman Blunt; Back Row: Bruce Hively, Rural Development Area Specialist; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director; Lori Seger, Alderman; Stacy Burks, District Office Director for Senator Bond; Joan Reynolds, City Clerk.

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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